

Verdict on pool 'Let's save it all'

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By **Cameron Lucadou-Wells**

THE Oakleigh pool consultants have delivered an unsurprising verdict to Monash Council: the community wants to keep the Oakleigh pool in its entirety.

Pool steering committee chairman Stephen Dimopoulos said the consultant's report, which analysed submissions from about 1000 people, delivered a "clear" result.

The public verdict was reinforced by a 97-page petition presented by Community Life Action Group at last Tuesday's council meeting, and was what the group has lobbied for since the council closed the pool in June.

The pool steering committee, which discussed the consultant's report on Friday, is expected to decide on a recommendation to the council this week.

Cr Dimopoulos said the committee

'With the shortage of water, we should be building more public swimming pools.'

Julie Clearwater

acknowledged CLAG's "strong presence" in the consultations, but "the results are still absolutely clear and absolutely valid".

He said the steering committee wasn't tied to the report's results, but they were a "very strong indication".

Despite the predictable result, he said the consultation provided unique insights, such as a diving pool being most popular with teenagers, and Oakleigh Recreation Centre users preferring a water-play area.

He said non-aquatic options for the site, such as a cafe and open space, also figured strongly.

CLAG spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the report confirmed what the community wanted.

"I expected that might happen and that might be the result."

She said the result carried weight, but the CLAG's preferences were also supported on environmental and heritage grounds.

She said one major swimming centre in Monash wouldn't be enough to cater for its growing population in a time of dwindling water supplies.

"With the shortage of water, we should be building more public swimming pools."

Residents want the pool kept

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I REFER to the Speakout article 'Cr takes swipe at pool group' (*Journal*, April 16), and I am shocked at what Monash councillor Denise McGill is implying.

I was at the festival (my kids loved it by the way — many thanks) for most of the afternoon and I did not see Cr McGill.

I am not a CLAG member so I don't know if any of their representatives were in the tent, but I assure you no one came

up to me to direct me to how I should vote.

Speakout was obviously dominated by people who want retention and refurbishment of the current pool.

When are the councillors going to accept that the public they represent want the pool in Oakleigh kept?

Julia Cunningham-Browne, Oakleigh

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